An Historical Sketch

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

DARBY, PA.

A History of

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

1911 - 1951

In Commemoration of the Fortieth Anniversary

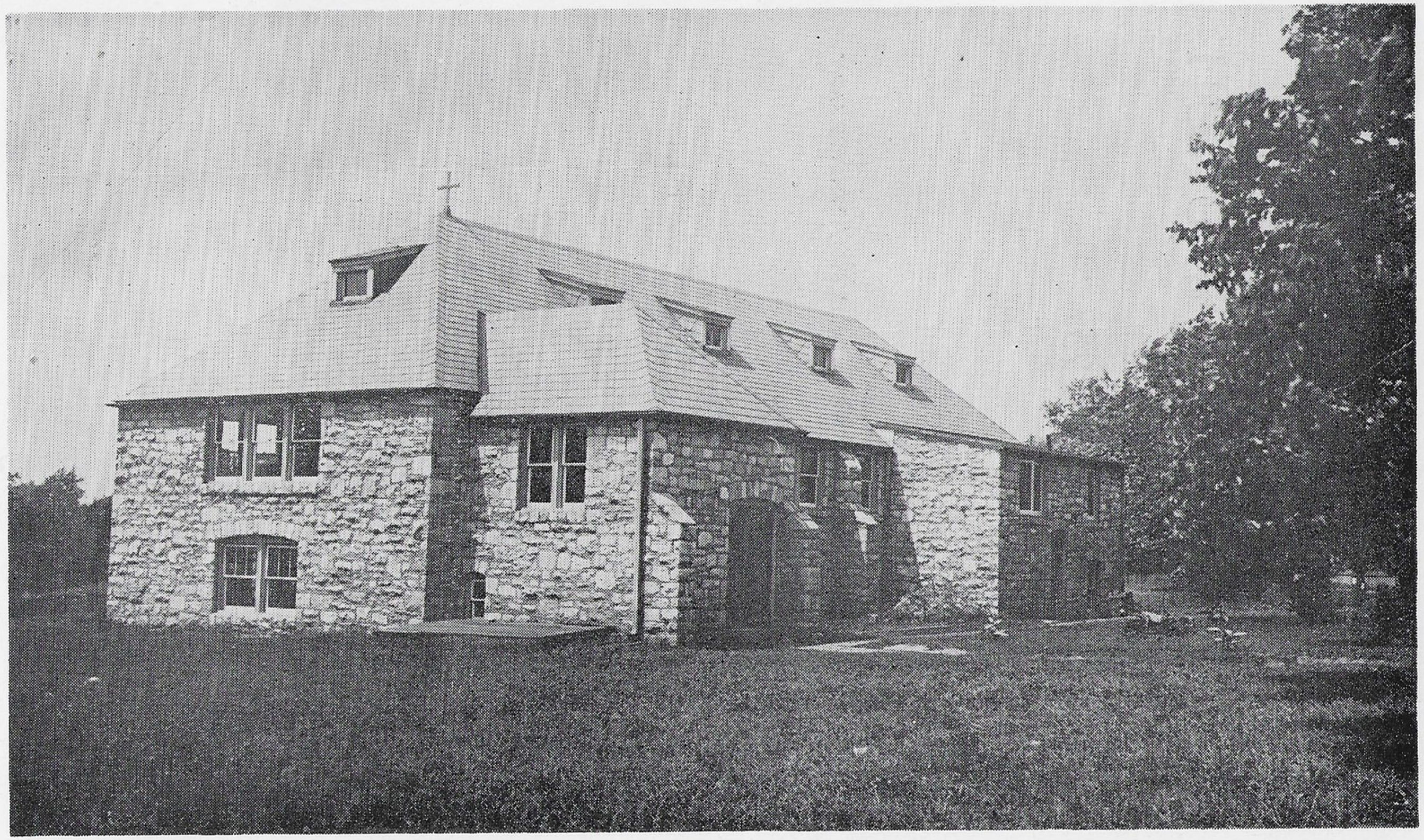
and

The First Year of Parish Status

Reverend Charles D. Snowden

Published by Direction *of the* Vestry

1951



Dedication

ONE DOES NOT devote oneself to an activity of lasting significance without mixed emotions. Always present is a sense of unworthiness and inadequacy to do justice to the responsibility undertaken; a fear lest some one be overlooked, some incident dear to an old member not be recorded, an interpretation which colors an event in a different light. More important, a sense of sacred trust and thankfulness in the opportunity to record the loyalty, sacrifice and service of a humble group to their Lord and His Church inspired the chronicler. Each parish has its distinct individuality, and the development of that at All Saints cannot be attributed solely to heredity and environment, but must be accounted for by the leadership and perseverance of its members. Although the influence of the successive ministers is evident, it is the people of modest income, humble, simple and unassuming who in their service and devotion gave it life and spirit. They were great adventurers and with that endowment, the church was strong and active and an influence in the community. That the church so often promised was not built is not entirely their fault. The disappointment of the Diocese in the paralysis of advance to parish status must be accepted. Its burdens and hardships must be recognized as well as its efforts to maintain and improve its fabric. It endured patiently the conditions and circumstances of the times. A few of its members, attaining modest wealth, sought a higher social and cultural climate and moved to better cnvironments. Others fell by the wayside and felt justified in doing so. To the faithful band of those who, through the years, have kept the faith, hoped for the future, and marched from strength to strength in the life of perfect service, this book is dedicated.

Foreword

In anticipation of the Fortieth Anniversary, it was felt with growing conviction that a history of these years as a Mission ought to be compiled. With the cooperation and enthusiasm of the members of the congregation a prodigious compilation of information, both record and recollection, was gathered. Fortunately there are many members who have been actively identified with the church since before the time of the first service held in the old Darby Reading Room on Main Street. Grateful acknowledgment is hereby made to Mrs. Henry N. Litchfield, Misses Edith and Mary Henry, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Phillips,Mrs. B. Frank Tomlinson, Mrs Wm. Hall, Mr. Roland Stanert, and Mr. Linford B. Cassel. Further acknowledgment must also be made to all those who were willing to share their recollections, pictures and memorabilia. To Mrs. Mahlon Shotts for assistance in preparing the manuscript and in reading the proof
go our deep and sincere
thanks.

"From Strength to Strength"

An Historical Sketch

DARBY IS AN OLD TOWN. Eight persons, three of them with families, settled here in 1683.* It is believed the name of Darby was given by John Blumston, who, with his brother and others, came from the county of Derby, England. Strategically situated on the roads that lead from Philadelphia to Chester and the communities to the West, its inns and black-smith shops offered refreshment and repair to many travelers. Well into the 19th century the principal business was the grist and fuller mills situated along Cobbs and Darby Creek. Growth in Darby was slow. In 1800 it contained only 50 or 60 houses. Not until the building of the woolen and silk mills, after the Civil War, did Darby begin to grow. Early, a number of English workers from the mill district of England emigrated to settle and find employment here. Public transportation brought an increasing number of workers from South Philadelphia, and with the decline of that area many families moved into Darby.

A few famous men have had brief indentification with Darby. In 1739, George Whitefield, traveling from Philadelphia to Chester, stopped at Darby where he preached to a large group of people who had gathered to hear him. No less distinguished a person than George Washington made more than forty passages through Darby on his journeys between Philadelphia and Mount Vernon. John Morton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, was born near here and was well known in Darby. John Bartram, the famous botanist and student of natural history, was born in "the Village of Darby". A singular distinction belongs to Darby, the establishment of a library in 1743, the second oldest free, public library in continuous existence in the United States. It is anteceded only by Philadelphia Library Company founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1731.

The Society of Friends for many years provided the only church and school for the inhabitants. Not until after 1800 were other religious groups established in Darby. The Mount Zion Methodist Church is the oldest, to be followed by the Presbyterian, and later the Roman Catholic, Lutheran and others. One might wonder why the Episcopal Church was so late in establishing a congregation in Darby, but to do so is to ignore the influence and position of Saint James of Kingsessing in this area. One of the Old Swedes Churches, people came by boat to worship there, later by horseback and carriage. Early establishment of public transportation between Darby and West Philadelphia made it easy to continue worshipping there.

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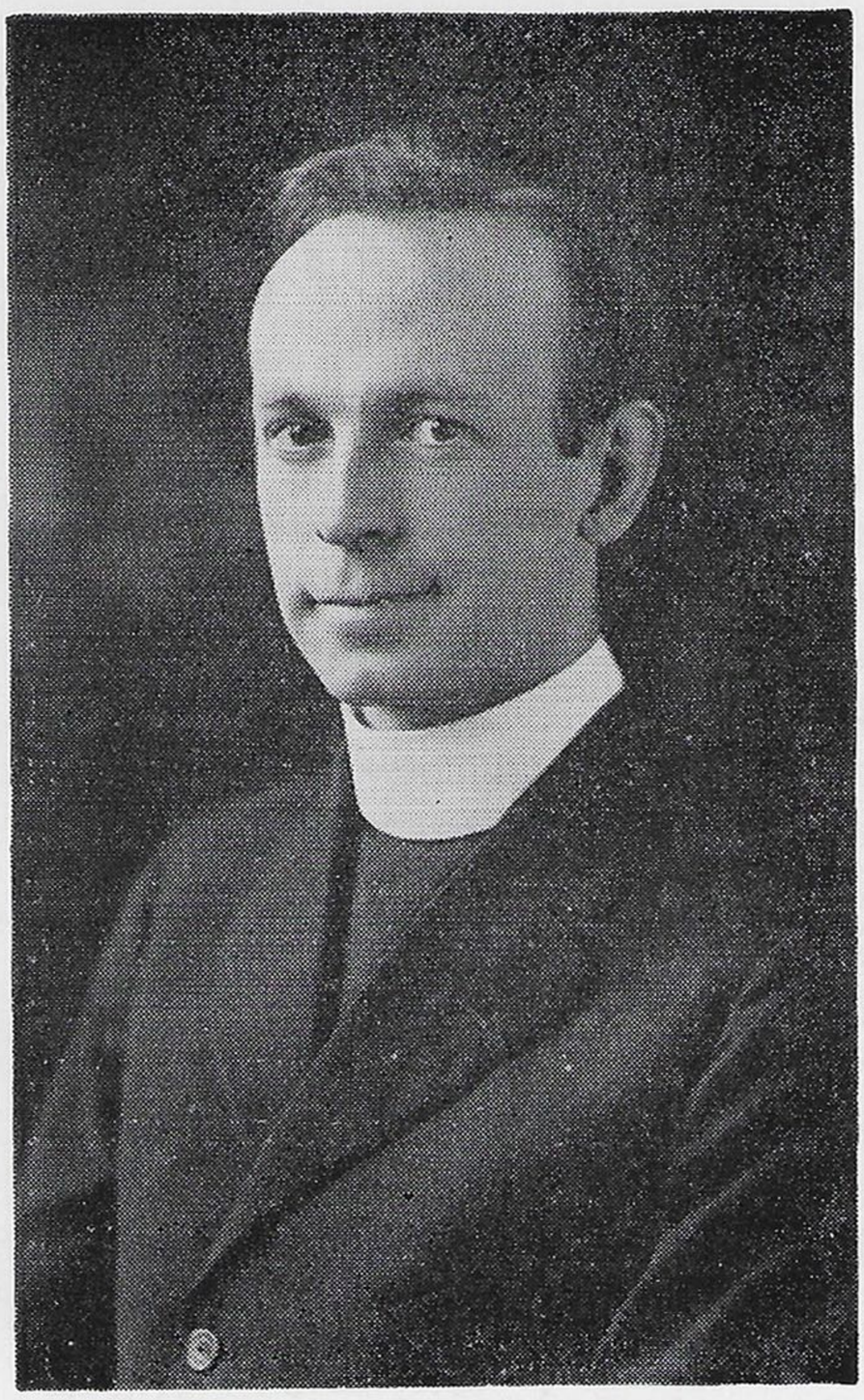
* For these and other historical notes on Darby, I am principally indebted to Mr. Charles Lloyd Serrill from his address on the two-hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Darby Library Company, dated May 1, 1943 and published by the Delaware County Historical Society.



Reverend August W. Shick

In 1872, the Rev. Charles A. Maison, beloved apostle and missionary, and for almost half a century rector of Saint James of Kingsessing, enlisted the aid of some of his parishioners in conducting a Sunday School in the Darby Library Hall. The Sunday School closed in 1886 after a valiant effort to continue it following the withdrawal of Mr. Maison's leadership.

A second Sunday School was organized by the Rev. August W. Shick, Minister-in-charge of Trinity, Collingdale, in December, 1910. Moving from a nearby store, the Sunday School was established in the Darby Reading Room, 846 Main Street. There the Episcopalians continued to meet and hold their activities until the completion of the parish house building.

The Rev. William H. Anthony, who succeeded Mr. Shick at Trinity, Collingdale, was greatly interested in the work in Darby and, convinced of the potential growth of the church, urged the establishment of a mission. A meeting attended by George Grayson, Andrew Teamer and Alfred Henry was held in the home of Hugh Stevenson to discuss the proposal. On Sunday, October 20, 1911, the first service was conducted by Mr. Anthony with 122 people attending. With the able assistance of David S. Agnew, a student at the Philadelphia Seminary, services were held morning and evening.

Immediately the Convocation of Chester became interested in the work in Darby. Dean Taitt, the Rev. Crosswell McBee, rector of Saint Johns, Lansdowne, and other leaders in the Convocation, undertook to obtain a building site for the Mission. When Dean Taitt learned that a portion of the Whiteley estate might be bought, he chose the commanding hilltop site, at the corner of Main and Summit Streets. In December, 1911, the property was deeded to Frances M. Taitt, Charles M. Armstrong and R. Francis Wood as trustees. With the establishment of the Church Foundation in 1926, the title held by the trustees was transferred to it. Dean Taitt was instrumental in obtaining the appointment of the Rev. Charles A. Ricksecker as Minister-in-charge. Mr. Ricksecker preached his first sermon to a large and enthusiastic congregation on Sunday, February 18, 1912, in the Reading Room. Ground was broken for the

parish house on July 17, 1912. In an impressive service held on Saint Michael and all Angels Day, September 29, the corner stone was laid. It is well described in the Darby Progress dated October 1, as follows:

"CORNERSTONE LAID FOR NEW MISSION"

BISHOP RHINELANDER OFFICIATES AT CEREMONIES,
OTHER CLERGYMEN ASSIST.

Large assemblage witness the ceremonies of Laying the Corner Stone of the Darby Episcopal Mission.

"A thousand people witnessed the laying of the cornerstone for the Parish House of the New Darby Episcopal Mission at Main and Summit Streets by the Reverend Philip Rhinelander, D.D., D.C.L., Bishop of Pennsylvania, last Sunday afternoon. Bishop Rhinelander was assisted in the ceremonies by a number of Episcopal clergymen from this county and Philadelphia, including his secretary and the Reverend Charles A. Ricksecker, who is in charge of the Mission; Dean Taitt, of the Convocation of Chester; the Rev. Charles A. Maison, D.D., pastor emeritus of Saint James of Kingsessing and founder of many of the parishes in this county; Dean Groton of the Divinity School; the Rev. C. McBee of Saint John the Evangelist, Lansdowne; the Rev. R. Blakewell Green of Collingdale and Norwood; the Rev. Pember of Ridley Park; the Rev. Dr. George Foley of the Divinity School; the Rev. A. W. Shick, who started the Sunday School in Darby from which the present Mission grew; the Rev. G. Osborne of the Divinity School; Leonard Hursh in charge of St. Titus Mission at Elmwood and Mr. Haines, a Divinity student. Promptly at 3:30 o'clock the clergy, choir, members of the Mission and their friends, and the Sunday School assembled at the Odd Fellows Hall and with the choir leading and the members of the clergy bringing up the rear, a procession was formed which reached all the way to the site of the new parish house, about four hundred persons being in line. At Whiteley's drive, Bishop Rhinelander and his secretary and Dean Taitt and Dean Groton joined the procession. All of the clergy wore their vestments. Upon the procession

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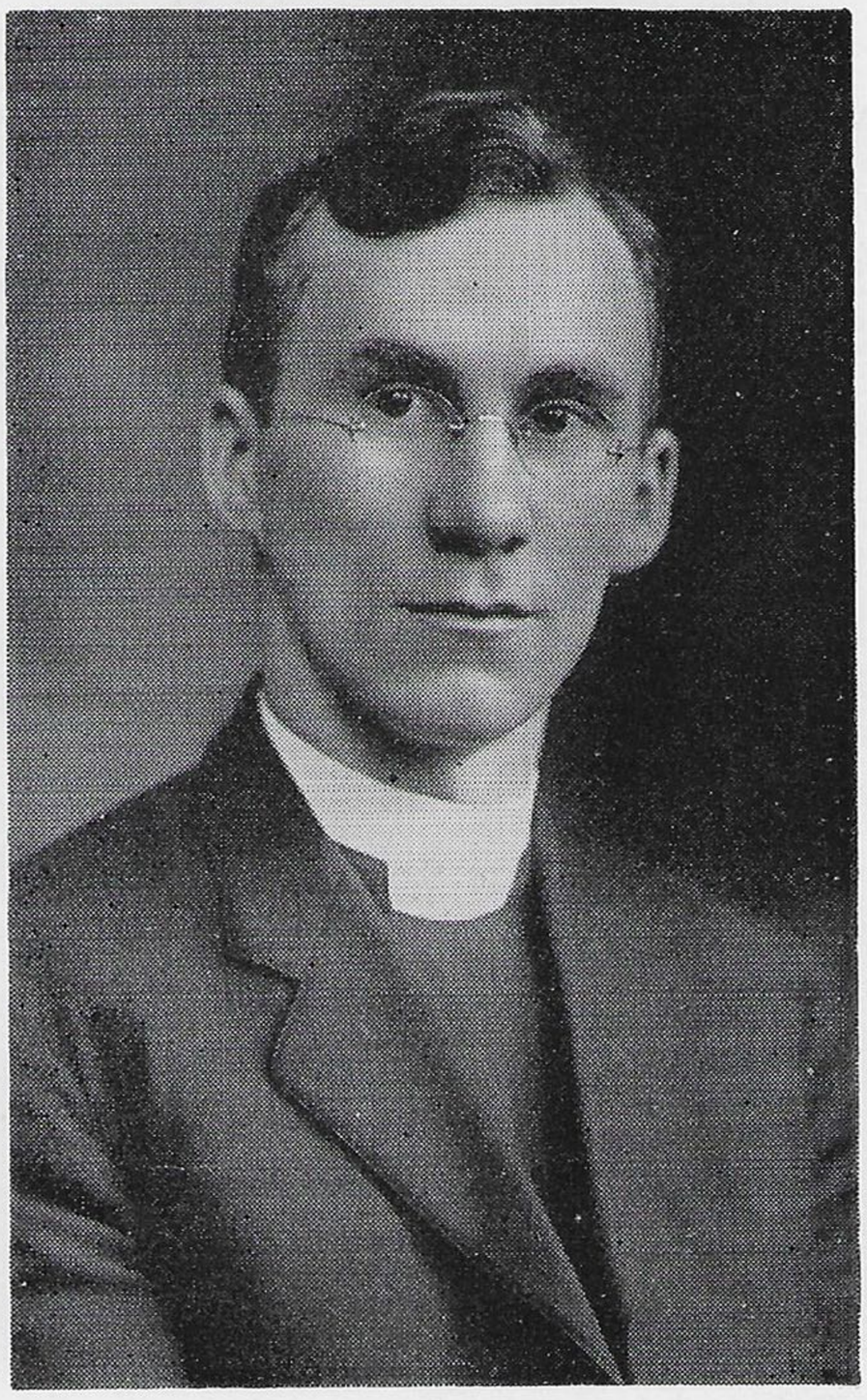
Reverend Wm. H. Anthony



arriving at the building, the ritual for the laying of the cornerstone, including the singing of hymns, prayers and responsive readings followed. While the service was in progress, the architect, George Nattren, assisted by one of the stone masons, placed the stone in readiness for it to be formally placed in position. Using a silver trowel with a polished mahogany handle the Bishop deftly spread a thin layer of mortar upon the stone and striking it three times said, 'In the faith of Jesus Christ, we place this Foundation stone in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Amen.'

"After he had laid the stone, bouquets of flowers were placed upon it by two of the choir boys, Masters Carr and Ledgard. In his address which followed, Bishop Rhinelander congratulated the people of Darby upon the work which they were accomplishing. He declared that all the eyes of the Diocese were turned on this mission and restated the declaration made by the Diocese that Darby was one of the six places picked out to have a church building in six years, the first of which was Saint Barnabas. Darby, he continued, had no easy task before it, but he pledged his fullest support in building up a strong parish.

"Following the bishop's remarks the Reverend Charles A. Maison made a short address. Dr. Maison, who is in his 85th year, was instrumental in having an Episcopal Sunday School started in Library Hall years ago, but it was discontinued after several years. He was instrumental in starting the Trinity Mission at Collingdale, Saint Stephens at Clifton Heights and Saint Georges at Cardington, later removed to West Philadelphia. Dr. Maison declared that it gave him the greatest pleasure in his life to see the occasion of the cornerstone laying at Darby. Others who made addresses were the Reverend A. W. Shick, Dean Taitt, Dean Groton, The Rev. C. McBee and Rev. Charles A. Ricksecker.

"The stone, which is of Indiana sand-stone, contains simply the figures 1912 and the figure of a cross. The new building when completed will represent a total investment of about $18,000 including the grounds.* Owing to the fact that trouble had been experienced in getting stone there has been some delay in the building, but it is believed that work will now be pushed ahead rapidly on the structure."

Dean Taitt was the preacher at the first service held in the newly completed building on December 22. In his sermon the Dean suggested the name All Saints after the parish church in Derby, England. Mr. Ricksecker had hoped the Mission might be named Saint Michael and all Angels since the cornerstone was laid on that date and it was also the date of his ordination to the Priesthood, but the Dean's choice of a name prevailed.

Under the able and devoted leadership of Mr. Ricksecker, the church members organized themselves, expressed their corporate life in work and worship, sacrifice and service, and All Saints was the center of many activities for the whole community. The Ladies' Guild, as it was then called, was organized on December 6, 1911, in the home of Mrs. Fred Wilson, 1010 Pine Street, with ten women present. Growth of this organization was

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* In the Appendix will be found a report of the cost of grounds, buildings and improvements.

rapid, for it is recorded in the minutes of the meeting in November, 1913, that there were 70 members. Not all of them attended the meetings regularly. It is apparent that many of the women were contributing members, and from time to time committees were formed by the active members to solicit the collection of dues. The great contribution of these women in the first year was the bazaar held in the Fall of 1912 to raise money for the church furnishings. The money so raised was used to purchase the chairs in the nave. The Guild was instrumental in gathering many of the articles needed in the functions of the church: vestments for the choir, hymn books and prayer books, kneeling pads and Sunday School material. Much of their effort was devoted to sewing, making articles needed by the church and to be sold at the bazaars. Soon after the establishment of the congregation in the parish house the Sanctuary Chapter was formed with Mrs. H. N. Litchfield (Miss Bessie Grayson) as its first president. She, together with Mrs. Rixstine and others, organized a Girls' Friendly group. A few members of this group are today in the Evening Branch. Boy Scout and Girl Scout organizations, started at this time, soon merged with church organizations.

The men, not to be outdone, organized a Men's Club and undertook to sponsor activities among the boys. Soon a basketball team was organized and when it became apparent that the cement floor was not at all suitable, either for playing basketball or for the children to kneel on in Sunday School, they undertook to break it up and replace it with a wooden floor. This was done in the Spring of 1914. In 1916 the Men's Club, as charter members of the Bible Class, gave up their separate identity.

The women of All Saints gathered on Wednesday, March 5, 1913, for a service of Benediction conducted by Bishop Garland. Because the parish house was to be used for secular purposes, a service designated Benediction rather than the usual service of dedication was chosen. Following the service a luncheon was held on the lower floor with the Bishop the honored guest. As he stood so that the light streaming in from the windows fell on his sweet face, one of the group said to those standing near her, "Doesn't he look like the Saviour?" Turning to look upon

Bishop Rhinelander at the laying of the cornerstone, September 1912

the Bishop, they all agreed. His face, so kind and gentle, his eyes full of compassion and his loving spirit so like his Master's, it was a moment never to be forgotten.

The Diocesan Journal for 1914, speaks of the great advancement made by All Saints. It lists 150 communicants and a Sunday School enrollment of 311. It was the largest Mission in the Diocese and enjoyed that distinction for the next ten years. On October 29, 1916, a special service celebrating the fifth annversary was held with Dean Taitt the preacher. From publications commemorating that event the following data is taken: "Baptisms to date, 160. Confirmations to date, 186 (4 classes). Communicants this date 301, (Male 126, female 176). Over 100 additional communicants of the Church were residents in the Parish, but are not connected with All Saints. Sunday School started December, 1910, numbers this date 350 scholars, teachers, etc., being the third largest Sunday School in the Diocese of Pennsylvania outside of the city of Philadelphia."

"Bishop Rhinelander, in his address before the 132nd Convention of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, referring to our Parish, said, 'All Saints, Darby, has a great story to tell us for this year—great and pathetic. On April 12th I confirmed 53, a great number of them men. People came an hour before service to get seats. It was so crowded that congregation, choir and clergy melted into one. There is a splendid, loyal, eager spirit. They need at once a strip of new ground adjoining to make them safe, and even more especially they need a church. There is on hand about $2,500 towards a rectory. Of the new churches to be built, you will notice that I begin this year with Darby, which heretofore had been kept rather in the background. And I begin this year with Darby because I have strong hope that even before this Convention rises we shall have the two others, which have so far blocked our way, actually provided for.' "

In 1915, the Diocese, which had contributed so generously to the establishment of the Mission, started a rectory fund. In August, 1916, an additional fifty feet fronting on Main Street to the west of the church property was purchased and construction of the rectory begun. It was completed in July of 1917 and Mr. and Mrs. Ricksecker took up their residence in Darby.

In May, 1916, ten men met at the home of Mr. Linford B. Cassel for the purpose of organizing a Men's Bible Class. At first calling upon their own members to serve as leaders they expanded rapidly in both membership and activities. Outside speakers were invited to address the group, they conducted services in various institutions, sponsored entertainments, and from their membership organized choral groups and an orchestra. One of the most outstanding events sponsored by the Men's Bible Class was the visit of Dr. Russell H. Conwell, in 1923, to deliver his celebrated lecture, "Acres of Diamonds."

The following is a report of that visit by Rowland Stanert giving a personal touch which ought to be preserved. "One of my greatest thrills during the twenty-five years I attended All Saints was this lecture by Dr. Russell H. Conwell, pastor of Grace Baptist Church and founder of Temple University. It was sponsored by the Men's Bible Class, not with the thought of making

any money, but to create favorable publicity for All Saints by having this famous lecture delivered in Darby. In fact, it was only undertaken after several of our members agreed to assume any loss that might occur. I was selected to procure the speaker and through Dr. Conwell's secretary, set the date. The lecture was given in the Sunday School room where small chairs could be used to seat the most people. Well over three hundred were present.

"Dr. Conwell arrived quite awhile before time and Bishop Taitt, who was to introduce him, came later. For a good half hour I had the great pleasure of entertaining this noted man in the small choir room next to the rear entrance. I shall never forget the occasion as I sat face to face with the great preacher who Sunday after Sunday attracted twenty-five hundred people to Grace Temple by his eloquence. Here was the world renowned lecturer who had earned millions of dollars all of which he gave to found a great university which today has twenty-five hundred students. At last the time arrived for him to speak. He stood beside a small table on the raised platform, now the infant room. For over two hours he gave a splendid rendition of his lecture. I had the privilege of hearing it when delivered the five-thousandth time at a special celebration at Grace Temple when many prominent people were present, including another famous lecturer, William Jennings Bryan. I had also heard it on other occasions but I never enjoyed it more than when delivered at All Saints. During the time I talked with Dr. Conwell, he told me he had been in bed all day with rheumatism and only arose at four o'clock to come to us. This, I am sure, was just another sacrifice that he was constantly making."

Two important events contributed to the religious life of the community. First the visit of Billy Sunday to Philadelphia in 1915. He aroused a tremendous interest in religion so that wherever people gathered they were not hesitant to talk religion and the church. The second was the growth of the Stonemen's Fellowship. The Stonemen held their meetings in All Saints and drew from all the other churches in the community. It enjoyed great popularity for a few years and was influential in winning many men to the Church. Another factor which contributed greatly to strengthening the spiritual life of the people was the annual preaching mission, usually conducted by a guest clergyman. Opened to all the people of the community, they witnessed to the strength and vitality of the Church and the Confirmation classes which usually followed the mission, clearly indicate that they appealed to the unchurched.

The next great event in the life of All Saints was the Every Member Campaign of 1919. The men and women of the church worked hard to make the Campaign a success, not only for the support of missions but to encourage more generous giving for the support of All Saints. That All Saints was desperately in need of a larger income is demonstrated by a statement issued by the Mission Committee. The operating debt at that time was about five hundred dollars. The current expense budget, based on a communicant membership of three hundred, was only thirteen cents per week. Unable to raise the budget on even that small per capita basis, ap-

peals had to be made to the various organizations for money. To help in this way a group of faithful members formed what was called the "Experience Club." The membership was composed of those who undertook to raise in some way the sum of one dollar, within a given period, and, at the meetings tell of their experience in raising the dollar. Thus others were encouraged to do their bit.

As the Mission approached its tenth anniversary, a brief summary of persons and events might be welcome. The organizations were all strong and active; by this time the basketball team, under the able coaching and managing of Mr. John Shotts, was one of the best in the community and, although no longer permitted to practice or play in the parish house, held their own with other teams. The Sanctuary Chapter had replaced the painted glass windows in the Sanctuary and Sacistry with leaded stained glass windows. The Ladies Guild had replaced the folding doors separating the infants' room from the main Sunday School with new rolltop partitions, thus enlarging the room to meet the increased enrollment. Efforts were made to reduce expenses; two or more organizations were asked to meet on the same day in the parish house, and eventually meetings were held in the homes of the members. For a short time services were held in the Presbyterian Church because there was no money with which to buy coal. On other occasions the men sawed logs on a farm at the corner of Fourth and Main to burn in the furnace. Miss Dorothy Magruder, who had been organist since June, 1912, left in March, 1918. Miss Louise Lammerty, Miss Helen Cassel and Mr. William Loane played for a while until Miss Edna Knorr came in March of 1920. Mr. Walter Lewis terminated his many years as choir master at this time.

The Mission Committee was not unmindful of its responsibilities. Regreting the low salary of the minister they voted the sum of three hundred dollars per year to be known as the Rectory Maintenance Fund to meet the cost of coal, light, telephone and so forth. The wooden steps and board walk extending from Main Street to the church entrance were extensively repaired, and there were plans for the eventual widening and grading of Summit Street. A large, clear sounding bell was given to All Saints by the Church of the Evangelists, which had been closed. The bazaar in the Fall and the lawn festival in the Spring had become annual affairs. The property was in good repair, the people happy, devoted to their minister, hoping with him that they might have a new church, regretted the five thousand dollar mortgage which they could not reduce and on which the Diocese was paying two hundred and seventy-five dollars a year.

To the original Mission Committee, appointed by Mr. Ricksecker, consisting of George Grayson, Warden; Andrew L. Teamer, Secretary-Treasurer; Alfred Henry, Frank Tomlinson, Hugh Stevenson and William Phillips, we find the names of John Holmes, Fred Wilson, Roland Stanert and Linford B. Cassel added. These were all outstanding men and each made a real contribution to the life and work of the Church. George Grayson, owner of one of the woolen mills, was an energetic churchman and had been warden of St. James of Kingsessing. Leaving there he attended Trinity, Col-

lingdale, where he was also warden. Mr. Ricksecker appointed him the first warden of All Saints. Hugh Stevenson was a kindly man, beloved by all the children whom he called angels though they might be ragamuffins. Each Saturday night he and James Crawford went to the Reading Room to prepare the Altar and arrange the chairs for the services. It was they who stayed Sunday evening to put everything away. Andrew Teamer lived on Woodland Avenue in Philadelphia. He was probably the wealthiest man in the group, and as such exerted a great deal of influence in his day. Alfred Henry

Reverend Charles A. Ricksecker

gave of himself unstintingly, playing his beloved violin for all the services until his death. Frank Tomlinson and William Phillips were leaders among the men of the church. Whenever there was work to be done they gathered the others about them and led the way. Mr. and Mrs. Phillips suffered a great loss in the death of their only son, Norman Shorter, killed in World War I at the age of seventeen. The Processional Cross was given by them in memory of their son. Two other men must be added to this list of notables. Mr. Fred Gambrill was a man with ideas, a go-getter and an untiring worker. He gave himself with great energy to the work among the men and

challenged others to follow his example. Mr. Leroy Van Roden was the brilliant and gifted teacher of the Men's Bible Class. Under his able direction the Bible Class enjoyed tremendous popularity and influence. His election to the bench and subsequent removal to Media deprived All Saints of an outstanding leader.

From the Diocesan Journal for 1921 we have Dean Taitt's report: "All Saints, Darby, has had a most worthy history. She is approaching her tenth anniversary with the second largest Sunday School outside Philadelphia.* She has 375 communicants and the Mission is bubbling over with life. She is surrounded by splendidly equipped churches of the other religious bodies. She has, in the opinion of disinterested persons, the finest site in the Diocese. Her faithful Missionary writes, 'We are about to enter our tenth year and I believe that the time has come when the promises made and repeated again and again should be fulfilled. All Saints asks that she be given the equipment that she not only needs but deserves by her works. In eight conventions All Saints has been promised a church building.' The Dean feels that he is right. If any member of our Church is desirous of building a church as a memorial to a departed friend, there is no better site in the Diocese and no place where the work is more full of promise. With a building that would compare favorably with those of other religious bodies in the community, the work would be greatly helped."

The Rev. Dr. Upjohn of St. Luke's, Germantown, offered to All Saints a three manual tracker action Haskell pipe organ. The small hand-pumped organ obtained by Mr. Ricksecker was soon to be replaced. The roof of the antechamber was ordered raised and a contract let to the Estey Organ Company to move and install the organ. On the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th of December, 1922, a bazaar was held from which was obtained eleven hundred and twenty-nine dollars. Mr. Charles McAllister was the guiding genius in this event. In the meantime the Mission Committee had conducted an organ subscription drive and raised nine hundred and forty-eight dollars. All expenses were paid with only a few dollars left over.

During most of 1922 attention was given to the matter of widening and grading Summit Street. The Convocation was invited to meet at All Saints with the idea that the Dean and others might obtain first hand information regarding the proposed improvements. A Rev. Mr. Parker and a Mr. Dixson, representing a special committee of the Diocese, met with the Mission Committee. A brief misunderstanding arose when the committee stated that the purpose of their visit was to learn what help the Diocese could expect from All Saints so that the Diocese would know just what would have to be done by them. The committee of All Saints insisted strongly that it was incumbent on the Diocese to assume the responsibility for the work and promised to do all they could to assist with the cost.† The Committee of the Diocese withdrew expressing their intention to consult the Borough engineer regarding the cost and advise All Saints of their findings. All Saints was called upon to deed to the Borough for one dollar

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* 371 in Church School.
† Taken from the minutes dated, July 10, 1922.

a strip of land twenty-one feet deep along Sumit Street and for this received from the Whiteley Estate a plot the same width along the west boundary, gratis. Although the original estimate was five thousand dollars, the actual cost was three thousand five hundred dollars. The Diocese provided two thousand dollars with All Saints paying the balance. The improvements enhanced the value of the property tremendously. Gone was the narrow, unpaved road beside the church, gone was the wooden runway with its rickety steps and in its place a wide paved street and cement sidewalk. To protect the terrace, properly graded and planted in grass, from the effects of the children sliding down it, a pipe railing was installed and a few years later Mr. and Mrs. Albert W. Irwin donated and planted a barberry hedge along the railing.

In the Fall of 1925 preparations were made for an Every Member Canvass. After thorough plans had been laid for its promotion, a supper meeting of the executive committee was held at the Longacre Hotel, at which time it was decided to withdraw the plan to have visitations made by the members of the congregation and to use students from the Seminary as canvassers. From a letter sent out by the rector we get an interesting picture of the weakness of the Mission. "The budget shows the need of at least nine hundred dollars over the receipts of 1925 in order to continue the work as conducted at present. This Mission could easily become a self-supporting parish if every member of the Church of God in this community could be aroused to do his or her share toward that end, as it would only take thirteen hundred dollars more to do it." This campaign, too, failed to accomplish the desired purpose, that of inspiring the people to give generously and regularly for the support of the Mission.

Another problem arose to plague All Saints. Mr. Bernard Ruckdeschel acquired the property to the west of the Mission property. With the intention of developing it for commercial and business purposes, he graded the property to street level to the depth of some one-hundred feet. Next he proposed paving Darby Terrace with the ultimate cost of the street paving, grading of the church lot, laying a sidewalk and erecting a curb to be anticipated. He also proposed that the property line along Main Street be recessed some twenty-four feet to provide for widening the street and to provide a sidewalk fifteen feet wide. The Mission Committee entered into an agreement with Mr. Ruckdeschel that, in consideration for the release of certain clauses in the deed, he was to erect a retaining wall some six to eight feet high and running to the depth of 125 feet, to terrace the church property from the crown to the top of the wall, to terrace the rear of the church property facing Darby Terrace and excavate the sidewalk to the new level of the curb, all to be done without cost or expense to the church. With regard to the recession of the property line along Main Street, that would have to be taken up with the trustees of the Diocese who held title to the property. Dean Taitt and the officials of the Diocese refused to consent to the recession of the church property. Mr. Ruckdeschel kept his part of the agreement and the Borough presented a bill of seven hundred and eight dollars for paving Darby Terrace. At the Convocation meeting, held in Lans-

downe, the treasurer of the Mission stated that in view of a six hundred and thirty-three dollar deficit for the year, All Saints would be unable to raise anything towards this amount. The Diocese generously paid the bill.

Bishop Garland, who was a great administrator, elected to raise $1,500,000 for Diocesan objects; the building of new churches, payment of mortgages and other liabilities. All Saints was near the top of the list for a church building. Bishop Rhinelander had given much publicity to All Saints in his Convention addresses. Dean Taitt also urged the need of larger facilities. As a result All Saints enthusiastically supported the drive. From records we find that $5,594.50 was pledged in the following amounts: eight pledges, $100.00 and over; thirty for $50.00; seventy-five for $15.00; twenty-five for $10.00; and fifty for $5.00. These pledges were to be paid over a period of two years. The drive was in the hands of a professional agency and payments made directly to them with no report in turn made by them to the contributors. This effort by the Diocese was only partially successful and as a result the hopes of a church building were further postponed.

With glowing prospects of being beneficiaries of this special drive, All Saints decided the $5,000 mortgage would be a handicap and that by removing it the Mission would prove its worthiness to share in the proposed building program. Actually the initiative to pay off the mortgage arose when the Diocese expressed its intention not to continue the interest payments on the mortgage. The people of All Saints felt they could not assume this added expense; therefore the wiser action was to make a supreme effort to remove the debt. The Diocese first offered one thousand dollars to be applied to the mortgage, when the balance had been raised. Later, in 1928, the Diocese advised All Saints it was willing to pay eighteen hundred dollars provided All Saints would raise thirty-two hundred dollars. Through the efforts of Mr. Cassel, the Church Advancement Society also promised five hundred dollars as the last payment on the mortgage. Dean Taitt, who was devoted to All Saints, wrote an enthusiastic letter urging the Mission Committee to accept the generous offer and pledged his full support. Through his influence the Altar in All Saints had been given as a gift from St. Paul's, Chester. Many years later, well advanced in years, on his last episcopal visitation, he told the people of All Saints, "I prayed through many problems at this Altar while a young clergyman in St. Paul's. It is very dear to me."

On Thursday evening, September 6, 1928, a Grand Rally meeting was held in the parish house to launch the campaign. Ten teams, composed of twelve members each, set out to obtain pledges and cash contributions from the members of the Mission and their friends. Weekly reports were submitted, follow up letters to tardy workers and contributors sent out, every effort made to bring the campaign to a successful conclusion. Thursday evening, December 6, saw the members gathered for a Victory Celebration. A grand total of $5,102.69 in contributions and pledges was announced. Much hard work yet remained to obtain the amounts pledged. Finally on January 23, 1929, the mortgage with interest was paid in full.

The following tribute was made by the Secretary of the Men's Club at the Victory Celebration: "I feel that my duty as secretary would not be complete if I failed to mention that the paying off of the mortgage on All Saints has been the ambition of one of our men for the past few years. He tried to interest members of our Parish. He tried to interest the Mission Committee and when the Men's Club agreed to undertake this work, he was a happy man. He has neglected his business, his family, his friends and also his Church, for I know that during the past three months he has worked and planned night after night and all day on Sunday encouraging and enthusing us when we were all but discouraged. You have just heard him present the last $500, but he did not tell you the number of personal visits and letters or the influence he used to secure it. You also heard that he returned the largest amount of contributions and if a true report was given, his amount would have been at least double. There was not a team but what he secured at least one contribution, and for one of the teams he secured nearly the entire amount reported. Every member of the Club is wearing a red rose tonight showing their interest and active part in the campaign, and if we are entitled to one rose, our good friend is entitled to the nicest bouquet that ever grew. The thanks of the Parish is due to every one who has assisted, but for the successful termination only one person

Interior of the Church, Christmas, 1924

should receive the praise and that one person is our good friend, LINFORD B. CASSEL."

The year which brought to All Saints the sense of accomplishment in eliminating the mortgage was, before it closed, to see the people bowed down in sorrow by the death of Mr. Ricksecker. Well advanced in years, he became ill during the summer of 1929 and never regained his health. On September 20, in his eighteenth year as Minister-in-charge of All Saints, Mr. Ricksecker died and was buried from the church he loved so well.

The first Minister-in-charge of All Saints was a distinguished, handsome and dignified gentleman. Always immaculately dressed, he wore a derby and carried a cane in the fashion of the day. He enjoyed the respect and affection of the community and the children loved him and greeted him joyfully when they saw him. He was not a gifted preacher but he was a patient and effective teacher. The Sunday School grew under his ministry and it was his personal delight to rehearse the school each Sunday in the Catechism. He conducted the church's service with great dignity and reverence. His administration of the Sacraments and heartfelt offering of the prayers made an indelible impression on all those taking part. He gave marked attention to the festivals of the Church and Saints days. The service for the Church School at Easter was unique. A growing plant was given to everyone present, a geranium to each member of the school and a pansy to everyone in the congregation. The speaker at these services for several years was the Rev. Mr. Natchett, who was unusually gifted in talks to young people.

Mr. Ricksecker was on intimate terms with and enjoyed the confidence of most of the outstanding clergy of the Diocese. By this the congregation benefited in that, during his ministry, All Saints had the pleasure of meeting many of them and hearing them preach. There was Dr. Mockridge of St. James, Dr. Steel of St. Luke and the Epiphany, Dr. Washburn of Old Christ Church, Dr. Grammer of St. Stephens, Dr. Flay of the Divinity School, and others. Among several prominent laymen who addressed the congregation, one of marked distinction was the Hon. Roland Morris, former ambassador to Japan and at that time Chancellor of the Diocese. Frequently outside Bishops were enlisted to help with the confirmations. These Bishops were usually sent to the Mission Churches and All Saints had the pleasure of having several of them. One of the most outstanding was Bishop George Allen Beacher of Western Nebraska, known as the "Bishop of the Great Plains."*

Mr. Ricksecker appointed all the members of the Mission Committee. He also reserved for himself the prerogative of appointing the presidents of all the women's organizations. Once a year, at the accustomed time of making the appointments, he attended the meetings, spoke words of encouragement and gratitude and having named his appointee, smiled benignly and departed. Mr. Ricksecker's relations with the men were always most cordial. He took great pleasure in presenting licenses to the lay readers

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* The Author was at that time in charge of St. John's Church, Valentine, Nebraska, under Bishop Beacher.

at a Sunday morning service and always called upon one or more to assist in the service. Mr. Van Roden, Mr. Gambrill, Mr. Cassel and Mr. Stevenson could always be counted on to take their turn and to assist in the administration of the Sacrament. No parish meeting was ever held under Mr. Ricksecker. Mr. Krantz changed this and designated Easter Monday evening as the time of the meeting for the hearing of reports of all organizations as well as the election of the officers and members of the Mission Committee.

Mrs. Ricksecker was a dainty, petite lady like a Dresden doll. Charming and quiet, she wore the black velvet neck band or lace collar with stays so becoming to women of her age. Shortly before plans were made for the building of the rectory, the Rickseckers, accompanied by Mrs. Tomlinson, went down to stay with Mrs. Tomlinson's sister in Wilmington. She had just moved into a new home and the Rickseckers fell in love with the plan and design and expressed a desire that the new rectory be modeled after Mrs. Minshall's home. Mrs. Ricksecker got her wish when the rectory was built.

The Reverend George B. Krantz, Jr. was appointed by Bishop Garland on December 1, 1929, to beMinister-in-charge of All Saints. Mr. Krantz was born and raised in Philadelphia, receiving his education in the public schools, the University of Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia Divinity School. He served various churches in Philadelphia before leaving the Diocese to go to Pittsburgh and the Diocese of Connecticut. Returning to the Diocese he received his appointment to All Saints. Mr. Krantz is a competent scholar and theologian, well versed in languages, a brilliant and gifted preacher and for a number of years has been a member of the board of examining chaplains. Of distinguished appearance and companioned by a charming wife, their enjoyment of the classics, arts and music gave a lovely atmosphere to their home. Mr. Krantz has become a competent painter in oils and his work has received acclaim from those who have viewed it.

The life and work of the Mission saw many changes during the next five years. The depression, the closing of the banks and the resultant loss of savings, the difficulties of maintaining an adequate income for the Mission, the need of continued repairs to the property, the special campaigns to meet mounting deficits occupied the thoughts and energies of the congregation. The organizations existing under Mr. Ricksecker continued to function and in this period two others were organized, the young Men's Club and the Junior Auxiliary under the leadership of Mrs. Levergood. To prepare for the comfort of the Krantzs, extensive repairs were made to the rectory at a cost of about one thousand dollars.

Items to be noted in this period: The Ladies' Guild, whose name was changed in March, 1930, to the Women's Auxiliary, erected a tablet in memory of Mr. Ricksecker, bought new screens for the rectory and contributed generously to the Mission Committee. By now it was customary and expected that all the organizations make a cash gift to the church at Easter and Christmas. There also arose the practice of a Christmas gift to

the Minister-in-charge. The Men's Club continued to hold the annual oyster supper. The wooden horses supporting the tables were replaced by iron pipes. The basketball team continued its winning form and acquired some trophies. A Calendar of activities of all the organizations was prepared annually, listing the dates and nature of the events planned. The custom of the annual parish picnic was started in this period. The Telephone Company, laying new cables under the sidewalk, replaced the old brick with cement paving. The resultant weakening of the retaining wall along Main Street necessitated continued attention in replacing loose stones.

On April 16, 1930, William E. Buckman presented a check for four hundred and fifty dollars in memory of his mother, Mary. Together with two one hundred dollar Liberty Bonds, bank certificates on the First National Bank were bought and held in escrow. Sincere efforts, patterned for the most part on previous attempts, to persuade the people to maintain regular payments on their pledges met with little success. Although some three hundred communicants were listed there were actually only about one hundred regular contributors from among the two hundred persons to whom boxes of envelopes were distributed. On several occasions the Mission Committee borrowed money to meet current expenses. Eventually these debts had to be met by special campaigns.

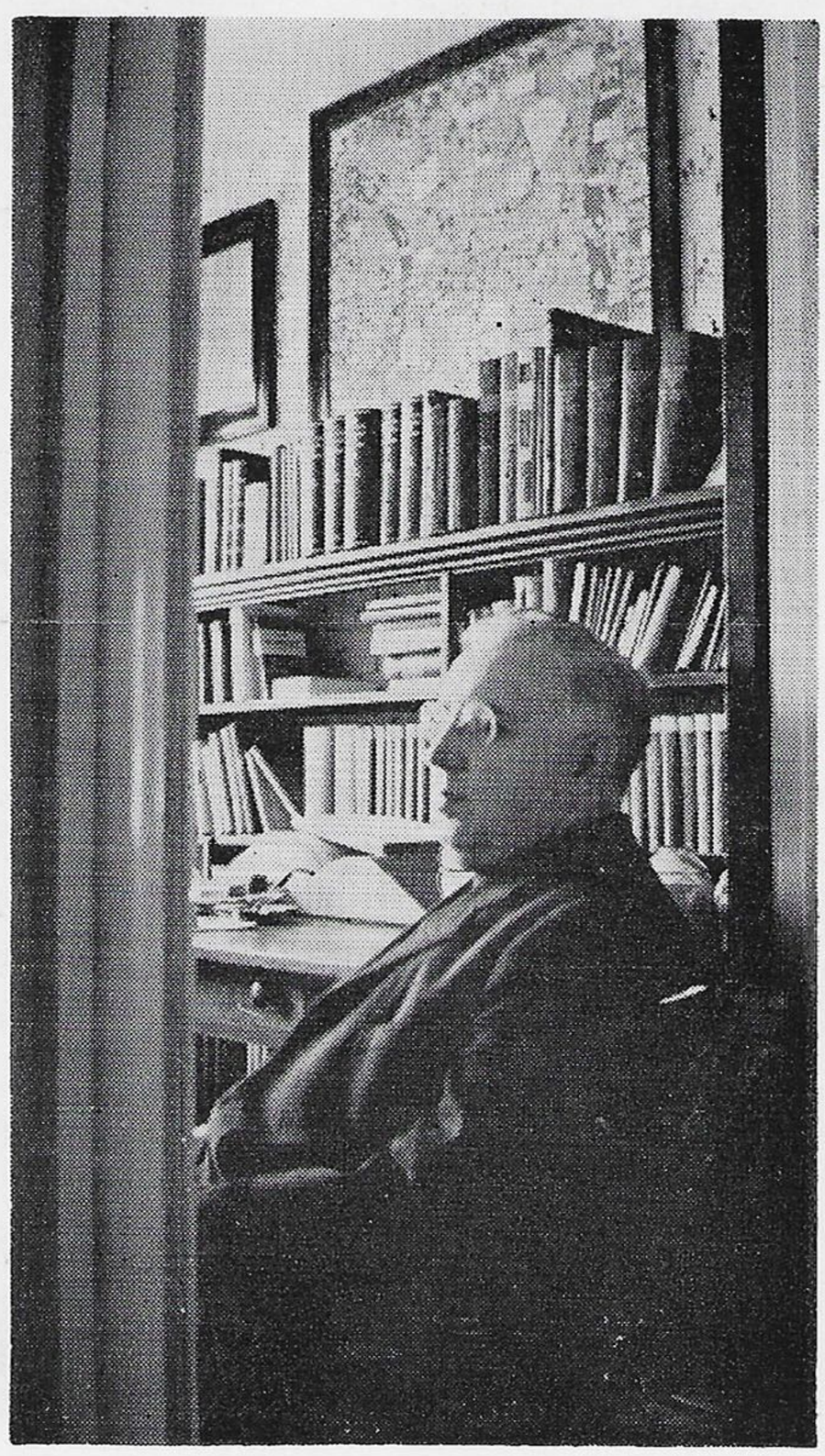
In 1931, to commemorate the 20th anniversary, a successful campaign to raise five hundred dollars was held. This established the third occasion upon which a special appeal was made, the anniversary offering on the Sunday following All Saints Day. Together with the Christmas and Easter offerings, they helped considerably in meeting current expenses. The missionary quota, then high, was continually reduced by the Mission Committee. Accepting a small figure and finding themselves in financial straits, they often failed to pay the quota in full. The closing of the banks in 1933 was a serious blow to the Mission. The bank certificates totaling six hundred and fifty dollars were lost, together with over four hundred dollars belonging to the women's organizations, which had been saved towards pews for the church. A fund of about three hundred and fifty dollars, most of it belated gifts to the campaign of 1928, on deposit with the Philadelphia Savings Fund Society was not lost. Mr. Krantz arranged a loan from the Diocese of five hundred dollars to be paid back when the Mission got its money from the bank.

In February of 1934, a special meeting of the Mission Committee was held to initiate plans to meet the deficit amounting to almost one thousand dollars. Twenty teams of five workers each were enlisted to make the visitations. A large picture of the church was cut into small squares which were sold for amounts ranging from one dollar to fifty dollars with payments to be made over a period of three months. At a victory celebration on Wednesday, May 16, the picture of the church was to be completed, each square sold and the total in cash or pledges announced. The success of this campaign was due entirely to the perseverance and sacificial work of the laity under the leadership of such men as Mr. Cassel, Mr. Lodge, Mr. Stanert, Mr. VanZandt, Mr. Levergood and others. Complete physical

exhaustion and happy escape from talking money followed this campaign as it did all previous ones. Payments through the envelopes fell off and by the end of the year the Mission Committee faced a deficit. At the Fall meeting of the Convocation the Dean proposed a gift of seventy-five hundred dollars provided All Saints would raise a like amount to be applied towards converting the parish house into a church building. All Saints was not in a position to accept this offer.

The old makeshift stage which had been mounted on the floor of the infant room was supplanted by a fine permanent stage built at the other end of the parish hall. One benefit of the new stage was the formation of the Dramatic Club sponsored by the Junior Auxiliary and the Men's Club. The Mission Committee made a valiant effort to cope with the problems of maintenance, repairs to the church and rectory roofs, water seapage through the rectory walls, sealing off the dormer windows, replacing gutters and down spouts, painting the outside of the buildings, hundreds of odd jobs, many of which the men of the church gave of their time to repair. One ray of good news was the resolution of the School Board and Borough Council exempting the church from taxes.

The next five years saw the congregation take the greatest strides forward in improving the fabric of the church. Resigned to the fact that a church building was no longer feasible, and encouraged by the offer of the Convocation to give five hundred dollars towards the cost of pews in memory of Mr. Ricksecker, the Mission Committee appealed to the congregation to give the remaining pews as memorials. The condition of the interior came next to their attention and plans were made for extensive renovation. The matter of lighting fixtures and windows in the nave received some consideration but lay dormant until Mr. Cassel offered a gift of one thousand dollars. The windows to be a thank-offering from Linford B. and M. Louise Cassel, and the balance to be applied against the cost of the lighting fixtures and the renovation. Everyone set to work with enthusiasm. The pews were ordered from the DeLong Company and were to be installed by



Reverend George B. Krantz, Jr.

the first Sunday in Advent, 1935. The window designs were agreed upon and the contract signed with the P. J. Reeves Company. The men and women joined forces in the work of renovation.

Following is a partial list of the work done:

$100 worth of new cement sidewalk and curb.

Rafters and entire board ceiling cleaned—first with coal oil, then given a rub down with linseed oil.

All inside stone walls scrubbed with Dutch Cleanser and thoroughly rinsed.

All woodwork scrubbed before applying two, and in some cases, three coats of varnish. Window sills required special sanding and staining to match up with the other woodwork.

The white front of the organ stained to harmonize with the general color scheme.

Entire church floor, from Altar to rear, as well as both staircases and halls, sanded and given three coats of shellac.

The Sacristy completely renovated.

On December 11, 1935, a celebration was held in the parish house with the Rev. Dr. Steinmetz and Dean Shriner as special guests. Reports were made by the Chairmen of the three committees, the pew, the renovation and the special gifts. Almost two thousand dollars had been spent, exclusive of Mr. Cassel's one thousand dollars and other special gifts. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Powers gave the brass Altar rail as a thank offering for blessings. Mr. Henry Foster gave the Litany desk in memory of his wife. The brass eagle lecturn was the gift of the Rev. Dr. Charles Eder, rector of Grace Church, Mount Airy. Mr. Krantz, who had shared so generously in all the improvements, with his mother, gave the pulpit and chancel rail in memory of his father.

It was indeed a lovely church setting. Gone were the chairs and in their place pews with comfortable kneeling boards; the light which had streamed through the clear glass windows in the nave, entrance and dormer windows, was now soft and mellow; a rich red carpet extended from the rear of the church to the Altar base; amber lights gave warmth and blended the shadows; all the furnishings complimented each other. In pleasant and reverent surroundings the worshippers' eyes were centered on the Altar, symbolizing the source of their spiritual strength and giving back to them the benediction of an acceptable service to Christ and His Church.

A sincere effort was made in the Fall of 1936 to conduct an effective Every Member Canvass. For the first time a budget was prepared and submitted to the people. The budget called for pledges of $3,837.50. Of the 350 communicants carried, 150 had contributed through the envelopes, $2,252.83 the previous year. Over $1,500.00 more was needed. Contributions from those not pledging as well as regular payments was the goal of the canvassers. A letter containing the budget and pledge cards was sent to all the members. The canvassers were to follow up the letter, ask for the pledge card and encourage the members to greater loyalty to the Church.

The custom, begun in Mr. Ricksecker's time, of making the pledge year coincide with the Church year was followed. Each year, in November, the Mission Committee would parcel out the boxes of envelopes and each member was called upon to deliver a certain number to the homes. A great many people declined to pledge and many of those who did, promised to "give what they gave last year".

The Diocesan Convention of 1937 gave consideration to a resolution regarding the status of lay delegates from the Missions and the terms then applied to the Missions and those in charge. Throughout the records there are references to the "parish". Both Mr. Ricksecker and Mr. Krantz were spoken of and used the title rector. Obviously the terms "Mission" and "Missionary" or "Priest-in-charge" were ambiguous and distasteful.

"Report to All Saints Church, Darby, by Rowland Stanert"

Lay Delegate to Diocesan Convention, 1937

Member of Committee on Missions and Missionaries

The committee was directed to consider and report upon two matters:

1. The status of Missions and Missionaries.
2. The question of giving Missions a vote in the Convention.

"During several years that I have represented All Saints in the Diocesan Convention, the work on this committee was the most important in which I was engaged.

"The fact that I had been a friend of Bishop Taitt since boyhood and he, knowing that I represented one of the most important Missions of the Diocese, could have had something to do with my appointment. Of the several men named on the committee, only two, Dr. P. J. Steinmetz, Chairman, and myself had anything to do with the matter. At our first meeting in the Church House, Dr. Steinmetz and I were joined by Dr. Hartshorne, widely known authority on Church Canons. At this meeting Dr. Steinmetz remarked to Dr. Hartshorne in a jocular manner, 'Who started all this?' This statement indicated to me that the organized parishes of the Diocese were not very much interested in proposed changes in the status of the Missions and Missionaries. The three of us held a second meeting and Dr. Hartshorne was instructed to prepare the resolution for presentation to the Convention. The following from the Committe report clearly sets forth the conclusions reached: 'The Committee finds that there exists a strong feeling among the Clergy and Laity of the Missions of the Diocese that calling those enterprises of the Church in this Diocese in which they are engaged "Missions" gives the public the impression that the work and worship carried on in them are of less dignity and importance than similar work and worship. The Committee also finds that there exists in the same circles an equally strong conviction that the use of the word "Missionaries" to designate the clergy in charge of Missions has come rightly or wrongly to indicate to the people of the Diocese, both within and without the Mission, that such men are probably of less ability and standing in the Church than the parochial clergy, and that consequently the position of the Mis-

sionaries with their own people is not that which it would be if they were not so designated.'

"The Committee also found that two-hundred and six congregations that make up the Diocese of Pennsylvania, sixty-five known as Missions, etc., had no lay vote in the Convention. Only the one-hundred and forty-one Parishes compose the Convention of the Diocese and they, and they only, with the clergy of the Diocese, elect the Bishop of the Diocese, choose the men to represent it in the General Convention and adopt Canons for the government of the Church in this Diocese. To correct this situation the resolution submitted with the committee report changed the name, Missions to Church and the clergyman serving it "The Bishop's Vicar" rather than as Rector. This title would indicate that it was a Mission church. The committee found that ten thousand communicants in the Missions and Chapels had no voice in Diocesan affairs and the Missions no vote in the Convention because they do not meet two requirements for admission: they are not incorporated and they are not entirely self-supporting. Again quoting from the report: 'This practically means that admission to the Convention and the privilege of having some part in Diocesan affairs is a matter of money.' The report proposed that a Mission of not less than fifty communicants which has made a Parochial report and paid its assessment for the Episcopal Fund for the preceding year, may send to Convention one Lay deputy and shall have one vote in elections or vote on Diocesan affairs.

"After the meetings of the Committee were over, I gave serious thought as to what I might do toward having these resolutions adopted when presented to the Convention. It was only then that I began to realize how unimportant a layman from a Mission was in Diocesan affairs. However, opportunity presented itself. The Church Club, of which I am a member, held its monthly meeting a few nights before Convention and the program announced was a debate on this resolution. Dr. Hartshorne read the resolution and spoke for the affirmative. He was followed by George W. Hawkes for the negative. Clinton Woodruff followed also for the negative. I followed with a strong plea for adoption, which enlisted strong support for our side. I pointed out that I had worked in the Church from childhood and from preference would like to be connected with a church of my choice. I enjoyed good music and the best preaching, but I had answered a call for duty in a Mission church where I had labored for many years. Why should I and others in like circumstances be denied participation in the affairs of the Diocese? The speakers who followed me seemed inspired with eloquence in support of adoption. Dr. Hartshorne seemed delighted and asked me to address the Convention and I accepted. When the resolution was presented to the Convention by Dr. Steinmetz and clarification of the Canons by Dr. Hartshorne, no further effort was necessary for adoption. I am sure that the favorable expression from the many members of the Convention who attended the Church Club meeting, started the resolution on its successful journey. When the next vote was taken I saw to it that I became the first layman from a Mission church vote in the Diocese of Pennsylvania."

Heavy expenses continued to plague the Mission Committee. The fur-

naces in both church and rectory needed attention and it was decided to install oil burners. Another drive was started, funds solicited from the organizations, pledges to the fund sought of the members. Mr. John Gallagher's bid was accepted and the work completed. While these installations were in process it was found that the pilasters in the parish house were in need of repair. That work was ordered done. The organ motor and blower were moved from a small chamber off the Primary room and installed in the furnace room. Upon recommendation of the fire underwriters the furnace room was completely sealed by asbestos wall covering and plastered over. The total expenditures amounted to one thousand dollars.

An exchange of courtesy was observed by the Mission Committee and Mr. Krantz. He, for his part, met the cost of the oil burner installation in the rectory, a welcomed assist to the harassed Mission Committee. They in turn, recognizing that Mr. Krantz had been with them eight years, voted him a gift of one hundred dollars to be used for his vacation or as he saw fit. Mr. Krantz consistently declined to take a vacation and in all his years at All Saints was never absent more than a week or two at a time. Upon Mr. Cassel's suggestion the Mission Committee Contingent Fund was started. The "chapel" was introduced as the receptacle and at each meeting of the Mission Committee a voluntary offering was made by the mem-

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Interior of the Church, Easter, 1949

bers. This fund came to supplant the gift of the Men's Club, which by this time had gone out of existence, to purchase greens for decorating the church at Christmas time. With the decline of the Men's Club the annual oyster suppers were also abandoned.

In 1934 the will of Susan B. Hunter bequeathed to All Saints the sum of one thousand dollars. A partial payment, made in 1934, was deposited with the Philadelphia Savings Fund Society and called the "Sinking Fund". In 1938 the residue of the bequest was paid and by order of the Mission Committee, after certain obligations were met, the remainder was deposited in the Sinking Fund. In the next few years All Saints was to share in two other estates. Sarah Staley Sharp bequeathed one thousand dollars. After deduction of taxes and costs, nine hundred and five dollars was deposited in the Sinking Fund. Later some eighty dollars of the Laura Edwards estate was added to the fund.

It is only natural to recall the spectacular and outstanding while passing over the steady, consistent and routine events of the church's life and work. Always undergirding and supporting the Mission Committee were the women of the church. To them fell the responsibility of helping the Mission Committee meet the annual deficits. By the cooperation of the groups the two annual money raising events, one in the Spring the other in the Fall, provided considerable money which went directly to the current expense funds. The practice of making a gift at Christmas, Easter and on the Sunday following All Saints Day was well established. Over and above these contributions, each of the groups carried on their own organizational activities. Money for materials to make articles for the bazaars, the missionary work, the provisions for the needs of the Altar, all taxed the women with never ending effort. Restricted in the use of the parish house, the kitchen poorly equipped to prepare and serve suppers, the continual shrinkage of active workers and a decrease in the number of those responding, causes one to take off his hat to these patient Marthas for their unsung sacrifices. Nor can we ignore the wonderful work done by the women in the canvasses and campaigns which were held through the years. Who can forget Mrs. Murphy, the first president of the Ladies' Guild? In those formative years, before the congregation moved into the church, she held the organization together and inspired the women to sacrificial work. With much affection we honor Mrs. Bessie Litchfield, the first president of the Sanctuary Chapter. She was the first Secretary of the Ladies' Guild, organized the earlier Girls' Friendly group, and was superintendent of the Primary Department of the Sunday School for many years. Mrs. Warren Levergood was sponsor of two different groups of the Junior Auxiliary. She organized the second one in 1938. Mrs. Henry Teamer was a highly respected and energetic worker of wonderful executive ability. Mrs. William Lytle and her sister Mrs. Frank Tomlinson sang in the choir. Mrs. Lytle was an indefatigable ticket seller and she would gaily report that she had sold some tickets to the saloon keepers. Misses Edith and Mary Henry gave so faithfully of their services as teachers in the Sunday School and to the Sanctuary Chapter. Mrs. John Lodge, of charming manner and gay

spirit, could bring harmony to a meeting and calm an angered brow by a witty remark. In later years, Mrs. George Marshall, Mrs. William Hall, Mrs. William Charles, to name a few, carry on in the same high spirit of love and service to the church. To record all the names of those who should be mentioned would be an impossible task, we can only assure them that they are held in deep affection and high regard.

Throughout the war years, despite the loss of the young men to the Services, a remarkable degree of normalcy was maintained. Some improvement is noted in the financial condition of the church, reflecting the higher wages, but the annual appeals were just as large. 1944 saw two major repair jobs undertaken by the Mission Committee. The wall along Main Street was in need of extensive repairs and a contract was entered into for its repair, the total cost being four hundred thirty six dollars and thirty-nine cents. Some effort was made to make the rectory more habitable. It was extremely hard to heat during the winter. Extensive renovations, particularly to the basement, were undertaken in an effort to stop heat loss. The rectory porch roof leaked but since the damage was not serious, nothing was done. The dormer windows in the church also leaked and in spite of continual repairs the leaks were not stopped. The Women's Civic Club had given venetian blinds for the parish house as well as curtains for the stage. A wire fence was installed along the west boundary to protect the property. Neighborhood boys continued their depredations on the church lawn in spite of frequent calls to the police. Mr. Krantz received increases in salary as the Diocese and Mission attempted to meet the rising cost of living. The Mission shared in the Reconstruction and Advance Fund and the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief. Each November the Mission Committee portioned out the boxes of envelopes to be delivered to the homes. The possibility of an Every Member Canvass lay dormant. Different ideas of decorating the church for Christmas were tried, the star hung pointing down because some one long ago said that was the way it should be hung. A fine spirit of fellowship grew in the Mission Committee meetings. The amount of time devoted to business quickly passed, and under the guiding hand of Mr. Krantz spirited discussions arose which might, and often did, include a great variety of topics.

From the Secretary's minutes: "In the general discussion which usually follows the meeting, we find that various and sundry topics enter into the picture. It is not strange that there was conversation concerning Episcopal churches in New York, their location, magnitude and present day status. Another topic was the Russian situation and our interest therein. The foreign policy of the United States, our economic concern in European affairs and the execution of the Marshall Plan, proved to be interesting subjects. We eventually came around to a historical review of the surrounding boroughs and their respective boundaries. This could have easily developed into municipal management and present day politics but further discussion was curtailed by adjournment at 10:00 p.m."

In November, 1948, the Bishop transferred Mr. Krantz to St. Bartholomew's Church, 25th and Lehigh Ave., Philadelphia, and appointed the

Rev. Charles D. Snowden as vicar. Mr. Snowden began his ministry on the first Sunday in December, 1948. In anticipation of the arrival of the new vicar with his wife and two sons, extensive improvements were made to the rectory. A thorough housecleaning of the church and parish house was done at this time by the men and women.

The first Mission Committee meeting of 1949 brought a thorough evaluation of the financial condition of the Mission and the vicar proposed that an Every Member Canvass be held. Despite their remembrance of previous disappointments, the Mission Committee gave their hearty endorsement and support. Under the inspired leadership of Mr. Thomas Chadwick the canvass achieved every desired result. Encouraged by this success, the Mission Committee informed the Bishop that All Saints would accept the full quota and that they would also assume one-third of the amount then paid by the Diocese on the vicar's salary.

The Diocese generously responded by undertaking to make the rectory waterproof, applying to the walls a water resistant coating and covering the window sills with tin flashing. The young men of the church were organized to serve as ushers under the leadership of Mr. Irwin, Mr. Gambrill and Mr. Barstow. The Junior Auxiliary was reorganized with Mrs. Margaret Hansen as president. A Sunday bulletin, setting forth the order of services and announcements was instituted. A confirmation class was prepared and presented to the Bishop early in April. During Lent, in place of the Wednesday evening service, a supper meeting was held on Thursday with a visiting clergyman as guest speaker. An attendance of over 150 was achieved at these meetings. The annual parish meeting on Easter Monday evening was preceded by a supper for the largest number ever to attend. Previously all organizations had made their reports verbally. Printed copies of all reports were handed to those present and reports made by title. The report of the Church School attracted favorable attention, both because of the larger enrollment and the increased income due to pledges and regular use of the envelopes by the children. Following the election of the Mission Committee, certain proposals were approved. The date of the parish meeting was changed from Easter Monday to the third Monday in January. The hour of the late service was changed from 10.45 to 11:00 a.m. A schedule of summer services, the late service to be at 9:30 to coincide with the Church School hour, was accepted. The pledge year, formerly beginning with the first Sunday in Advent, was changed to coincide with the calendar year. The establishment of a Book of Remembrance, in which would be recorded the gift of permanent memorials and to encourage the creation of memorials in the name of the deceased by cash donations, was authorized. After lengthy discussion it was decided to establish the policy of issuing quarterly statements, both as a means of reporting the financial condition of the church and as a reminder to those who had inadvertently fallen behind in the payment of their weekly pledge. The results of this procedure have proven most beneficial.

During the summer the Mission Committee ordered the installation of storm sash on the windows of the rectory. As the result of a survey made

Reverend Charles D. Snowden

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in Darby, a parish visitor was hired to follow up the names revealed by the survey. Some new members were brought to the church through these contacts. That Fall, in cooperation with the Presbyterian Church, bus service for those attending Church School and the eleven o'clock service was established. A budget was prepared and preparations made for the Every Member Canvass for 1950. Plans were drawn up for the complete renovation of the kitchen. The vicar prepared the second confirmation class within the year, to be presented to the Bishop on the evening of All Saints Day. At that service the Bishop dedicated a new Altar Service Book given by the Senior Auxiliary, the memorials in the Book of Remembrance and a set of candle sticks given by the families of the men who died in World War II.

Under the able supervision of Mr. Cassel, the renovation of the kitchen was begun in December. The wooden floor was replaced by a cement floor covered with asphalt tile; two new sinks, a steam table, a large burner stove and many other conveniences were installed. The men did the carpentry and painting work and the women held a kitchen shower under the sponsorship of Mrs. Marshall and the Church School teachers. Upon completion of the kitchen, a portion of the raised area was designated as the Board

Room. One of the tables was covered with green linoleum, because the men pleaded they were getting too many splinters in their fingers while counting the money after the service. Mr. Haldeman covered a dozen chairs in green leather and, with the screens to hide the kitchen, the Board Room took on a dignified and sumptuous air.

The annual parish meeting in January, 1950, was the occasion for summing up the accomplishments of the year. The reports of the organizations showed a healthy, vigorous state. The money from the Fair and Bazaar plus the "linoleum fund", covered all the costs of the kitchen renovation. The church's finances were considered in good condition. Pledges totaling $5,944.00 for 1949 were increased to $7,852.00 for the year 1950. Two-thirds of the vicar's salary paid by the Diocese was assumed by the Mission Committee as well as the full mission quota. Mrs. Furterer volunteered to keep a scrap book recording the happenings and news items pertaining to All Saints. The continuation of the nursery school during the eleven o'clock service was assured by Mrs. George Smith. The renewal of the Lenten supper program with special speakers was approved. The number of people at the church's services continued to grow, both by the addition of new members and through the increase in the number of those attending regularly. Everyone seemed happy and contented and a spirit of fellowship prevailed.

In the Spring of 1950, All Saints undertook a double campaign, to support the "One World in Christ" drive and the "Diocesan Advancement Fund". Contributions over a period of three months were agreed upon with the first payment to be made on March 12, at the time of the radio appeal by the Presiding Bishop. Over five hundred dollars was raised and turned over to the Diocese. The chairs which had been used in the nave, in sets of three, were unwieldy and hard to store in the parish house. A group of men gathered to convert them into single chairs. Apart from a few arguments as to who was not doing the job right, not only was that one done, but the choir room was painted, new rug laid, and a better method of storing the tables under the stage devised.

The Council of Women, comprising representatives of all the organizations was created. Through the Council the work of the women is more closely unified and greater cooperation in joint projects attained. The men, following a series of smokers and entertainments, organized a Men's Club for the promotion of fellowship and service to the church. The congregation experienced the loss of Miss Edna Knorr who resigned as organist and choir director after twenty-seven years of faithful and devoted service. She enjoyed the love and affection of all and the loss of this valued member was deeply felt. Two months later Miss Florence Richards was chosen to be organist and choir director. The second confirmation class of the year was presented to the Bishop on the Sunday evening following All Saints Day. Again the Bishop was requested to dedicate memorial gifts to the church, among them a permanent dossal presented by Mrs. Richard Wiggins and a complete set of burses, veils and matching stoles in the four colors, given by Mrs. William O. Miller. Very thorough preparations and the best possible presentation of the Every Member Canvass were undertaken so that

All Saints might become completely self-supporting in the following year.

At the annual parish meeting in January, 1951, the congregation approved the petition to the Diocese for parish status. The proper steps were taken to fulfill all the requirements in preparation for the Diocesan Convention in May. A Young People's Fellowship and a Junior Girl's Friendly were organized. These, together with the service of the boys as acolytes and crucifers, provided the youth of the church with an adequate program of activities. Now at last, all ages and all groups could find opportunity for work and service, so long neglected. The condition of the organ was brought to the attention of the Mission Committee. The extent of repairs needed on the old organ induced the Mission Committee to dispose of it and to authorize the purchase of a new electronic organ with chimes. Stained glass windows depicting the four Evangelists and the Old and New Testament figures of Moses and St. Paul, were given as memorials, to be dedicated at the service of installation. On St. Phillip's and St. James' Day the Diocese, in Convention, admitted All Saints into union as a parish. Bishop Hart, in his address of welcome, expressed his appreciation of the achievement.

The Bishop of the Diocese consented to institute the vicar as rector of the parish and the date of June 12 was designated. An announcement and invitations were sent to the clergy of the Diocese, a confirmation class prepared, a reception on the lawn planned, and a wire recording of the service arranged. The Secretary of the Diocese, the Dean of the Convocation and the father of the incumbent were chosen to be the officiating clergy. The whole congregation joined in the preparations for the memorable event. The church, so long undedicated, was to receive that blessing from the Bishop. The day of the institution was a beautiful summer day refreshed with cooling breezes. The Bishop, officiating clergy and vestry, together with their wives, gathered for a buffet supper in the rectory before the service. On this occasion the Vestry presented a parchment scroll to Mr. Cassel in testimony of their affection and appreciation of his many years of devoted service and acclaiming him the first warden of the parish. People came early, an hour before the service, to get seats. The procession of the combined choirs, visiting clergy and guests, the confirmation class and officiating clergy stretched from the parish house to the rear of the nave. The church was crowded as it had been in the days when Bishop Rhinelander proclaimed its achievement. The enthusiasm, devotion and consecration of the people brought to memory the days of the youth of the church and All Saints seems destined to rise to the glorious future so earnestly hoped for when she began. May she go on from strength to strength in the life of perfect service.

APPENDIX

No. 1

ORIGINAL COST OF GROUND AND BUILDINGS

FOR

ALL SAINTS MISSION

Main and Summit Streets, Darby, Pa.

Cost of Lot Main & Summit St. (50 x 200 ft.)	$ 8,000.00
Cost of building Parish House	8,417.12
Cost additional lot (50 x 200 ft.)	2,100.00
Cost of building Rectory	8,666.00
	$27,183.12

Contributions to meet the above costs were received as follows:

Parish House and Lot		
The Parish		$ 900.00
Sunday Schools of Diocese of Penna.		2,100.00
From Diocese of Penna.		
Anonymous Donor	$5,000.00	
Woman's Auxiliary, Chester	500.00	
Loans and Gifts	1,417.12	6,917.12
Griswold Memorial Fund		1,500.00
Rectory and Lot		
The Diocese of Penna.		4,793.00
Bosse Memorial Fund		2,000.00
Board of Missions and Chester Convocation		2,100.00
The Parish		1,873.00
Mortgage upon which the Diocese paid the interest until it was paid off in 1928		5,000.00
		$27,183.12

No. 2

MORTGAGE

Paying off the Mortgage of		$5,000.00
The Parish	$2,577.69	
Diocese of Penna.	1,800.00	
Advancement Society	500.00	
Personal Contribution of Dean Taitt	100.00	
St. Paul's, Chester	100.00	
St. Martin's, Radnor	25.00	
		$5,102.69

No. 3

ORGAN

Gift of 3 Manual Organ by the Rev. Dr. Upjohn, Rector of St. Luke's, Germantown. Valued at $5,000.

Cost of raising antechamber roof, remove and set up organ		$2,077.00
Paid as follows:		
Proceeds from Fair	$1,129.00	
By Subscription	948.00	
		$2,077.00

No. 4

GRADING SUMMIT STREET

We asked the Diocese for $5,000, the actual cost was		$3,500.00
Paid for as follows:		
The Diocese	$2,000.00	
The Parish	1,500.00	
		$3,500.00

No. 5

GRADING DARBY TERRACE

Cost of Grading Darby Terrace and completing the improvements necessary		$1,663.50
Street paving paid by Diocese	$708.50	
Paid by Mr. Ruchdeschel:		
Sidewalk	$250.00	
Driveway	30.00	
Steps to Rectory	50.00	
Coping	125.00	
Spouting and Repair Summit St. Curb	250.00	
West Bank, sodding, etc.	250.00	
	955.00	
		$1,663.50

No. 6

CHURCH RENOVATIONS

Lighting fixtures, carpet, windows in nave ..... Paid by Linford B. Cassel		$1,000.00
Pews purchased from DeLong Mfg. Co.		1312.00
Donated by the Parishes of the Convocation in memory of Mr. Ricksecker	$500.00	
Other pews given as memorials by organizations and members	812.00	
Cleaning, painting and repairs, paid by subscriptions		1,000.00

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Altar Cross and Vases: Mrs. Carpenter from Church of the Meditator
Four Vases: Hugh Stevenson
Altar and Altar hanging: St. Paul's, Chester
Altar Book Rest: Emeline H. Neill
Wooden Altar rail and Choir stalls: Grace Church, Philadelphia
Sanctuary chairs: St. Jude and Nativity
Bishop's Chair: St. Asaph's, Bala
Alm's Basins: Trinity Church, West Chester
Communion Silver, Flagon, Altar Linen and Safe: Mrs. Edward Illsley
Bread Box: Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Teamer
Chalice and Paten: Christ Church, Ridley Park
Credence Table: Mr. & Mrs. John DuBosque
Set of Altar hangings: Mrs. Katz and Miss Quay
Processional Cross: Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Phillips
Wrought Iron Communion Rail: Mr. & Mrs. Frank Powers
Litany Desk: Henry T. Foster
Pulpit and Chancel Rail: Mr. Krantz
Baptismal Font: Lincoln Institute
Baptismal Urn: All Saints Sunday School
Griswold Memorial Plaque: Mrs. Edward Illsley
Ricksecker Memorial Plaque: The Woman's Auxiliary
Prayer Desks: Charles L. McAllister
Lecturn: Grace Church, Mt. Airy
Stone Base: Edward A. Carroll Co., Monument builders, Mt. Airy
Book of Remembrance: Mr. & Mrs. H. Earle Rixstine
Complete set in four colors, burses, veils and stoles: Mrs. Wm. O. Miller
Permanent Dossal: Mrs. Richard Wiggins
Altar Candle Sticks: Families of World War II dead
Stain Glass Windows: Mrs. B. F. Tomlinson and Mrs. Cidney Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Willoughby, Miss Elizabeth Wiggins, Junior Woman's Auxiliary, Mrs. James Waldie, Jr., Mr. Alvin R. Miller and family.

All Saints Day, 1951

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